



INTEGRITY AGENCIES GROUP

DRAFT MINUTES

Tuesday, 27 May 2025 | 2:00pm – 4:00pm | Wiradjuri Room, Treasury Building

Attendees

In person:

Dr Gordon de Brouwer PSM	Australian Public Service Commissioner (Chair)
Dr Rachel Bacon	Deputy Commissioner, Integrity, Reform, and Enabling Services, Australian Public Service Commission
Ms Katherine Jones PSM	Secretary, Attorney-General's Department
Ms Rona Mellor PSM	Acting Auditor-General
Ms Jamie Lowe	Merit Protection Commissioner
The Hon Christopher Jessup KC	Inspector-General Intelligence and Security
Mr Iain Anderson	Commonwealth Ombudsman
Ms Elizabeth Tydd	Australian Information Commissioner
Mr Mark de Crespigny	Acting Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions
Mr Reece Kershaw APM	Australian Federal Police Commissioner

Via Microsoft Teams

The Hon Paul Brereton AM RFD SC	National Anti-Corruption Commissioner
Mr Hugh de Kretser	President, Australian Human Rights Commission
Ms Christina Grant	Chief Executive Officer, Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
Mr Andrew Walter	First Assistant Secretary, Government Division, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Apologies:

Mr Martin Hehir PSM	Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
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The Hon Troy Grant

Inspector-General of Water Compliance

Ms Heather Cook

Chief Executive Officer, Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission

Ms Ruth Owen CBE GAICD

Inspector-General of Taxation and Taxation Ombudsman

Secretariat:

Ms Clare McLean

Director, Integrity and Ethics, APSC

Mr Joseph Hall

Assistant Director, Integrity and Ethics, APSC

Mr Fergus Yim

Senior Policy Advisor, Integrity and Ethics, APSC

Item 1 – Welcome from Chair, and minutes and action items from previous meeting

- 1.1 The Chair provided an Acknowledgement of Country.
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed members, new members and first-time attendees to the group and the Chair **noted** the apologies.
- 1.3 Members endorsed the IAG Meeting minutes from 12 November 2024 meeting with no changes.

Item 2 – Standing Update: Australian Public Service Commission (APSC)

- 2.1 Dr Bacon noted the Commission's early engagement with the returned Minister for the Public Service, and the likely public sector priorities of the Government.
- 2.2 Dr Bacon updated members on progress of APS Stage 2 reforms and the natural movement to an implementation and embedding phase. The APSC is focused on trust as a key linkage between public sector integrity and delivery of services to Australians.
- 2.3 Dr Bacon and the Chair shared insights from recent Commission inquiries.
- 2.4 Dr Bacon updated Members on the Commission's *Strengthening the APS Employment and Integrity Frameworks* project, advising that the Commission is finalising an overarching strategy for publication, which addresses



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recommendations from the ANAO and the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit.

- 2.5 The APS Conflict of Interest Management Framework will also be released in coming months. The Commission positively notes its ongoing close collaboration with key agencies, including the National Anti-Corruption Commission, in developing an integrated guidance suite.
- 2.6 Related to this work, the Commission's review of the Gifts and Benefits Guidance for Agency Heads has commenced under a reference group of Chief Operating Officers, sponsored by the Department of Education.

Item 3 – Standing Update: Australian National Audit Office (ANAO)

- 3.1 Ms Mellor shared the ANAO's thematic observations from recent audit reports including lawful and ethical decision-making, particularly in procurement, and the need for stronger leadership on integrity culture, systems and accountability flowing through to agency business teams.
- 3.2 Agency heads were reminded before the election of their confidentiality obligations under the Auditor-General Act.
- 3.3 Ms Mellor also observed that, following the election, the ANAO will brief new parliamentarians on the applicable legislative frameworks which are subject to audit.
- 3.4 Additionally the ANAO noted agencies' obligations regarding financial and records management requirements in the context of Machinery of Government changes.
- 3.5 **Action Item:**
 - Secretary Jones indicated AGD will seek an opportunity for the Auditor-General to reflect her observations to Secretaries Board.



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Item 4 – Standing Update: National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC)

- 4.1 Commissioner Brereton updated members on the NACC's current program of work, including recent referrals, investigations and prosecutions data, and the guidance issued in March 2025 on pre-election corruption risks. A Memorandum of Understanding has also been agreed with Parliamentarians on the use of parliamentary privilege.
- 4.2 Commissioner Brereton outlined insights from the inaugural Commonwealth Integrity Survey, including response rates, key indicators, and the gap between observations of corrupt conduct and reporting. The NACC intends to conduct the survey on a regular basis to obtain a longitudinal view. The NACC has shared results with agencies, and is open to sharing a summary of its broader observations with Secretaries Board.
- 4.3 Approaching its two-year anniversary, the NACC's priority domains of action have clarified, to focus on procurement, recruitment, separation and entitlements, and the interface between public and private entities.

Item 5 – Australian Federal Police (AFP)

- 5.1 Commissioner Kershaw reflected on the AFP's current integrity information sharing practice, including insights from recent matters.
- 5.2 Commissioner Kershaw discussed broader investigations skills shortages in public sector agencies, and indicated the AFP is able to help IAG members and other agencies to build their internal investigation capability, including via secondments, shared training offerings through its Commonwealth School of Investigations, and the provision of ad hoc advice and support.
- 5.3 **Action Items:** AFP to share with members the report of the Commonwealth School of Investigations multi-agency workshop and a point of contact.

Item 6 – Group Discussion: Information Sharing Between IAG Members

- 6.1 The Chair facilitated an open discussion on the potential benefits and options for increasing the sharing of intelligence relating to integrity matters between Members, and other relevant agencies, for integrity system assurance purposes.



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- 6.2 Members discussed the feasibility of sharing relevant information from their jurisdictions within appropriate legal parameters.
- 6.3 Members discussed future opportunities and options. Emphasis was placed on the need to maintain proactive transparency and engage with open government principles.
- 6.4 **Action Item:** The Chair undertook to circulate a short survey to gauge issues and opportunities for enhanced information sharing between Members.

Item 7 – Other Business

No additional business was raised.



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Appendix 1

ACTIONS

Item	Action	Members(s)	Status
1 (Previous Meeting)	Australian Public Service Commission to convene education priorities/activities working group	APSC	Outstanding
2 (Previous Meeting)	AGD to consult on draft integrity strategy content with Member agencies at the appropriate time	AGD	Outstanding
3	AGD to seek opportunity for Auditor-General to reflect observations to Secretaries Board	AGD / PM&C	
5	AFP to share with Members the report of the Commonwealth School of Investigations multi-agency workshop	AFP	
6	APSC to disseminate a short survey to Members regarding key issues and opportunities for enhanced integrity agency information sharing	APSC	